

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying pages in a viewer program on a computer display monitor, wherein the viewer program displays an application window, comprising:

- 1 downloading a first and second pages from one of multiple servers over a network;
- 2 automatically concurrently displaying the first page in a first window pane and the second page in a second window pane in the application window according to predefined settings specifying how pages are to be displayed in the first and second panes;
- 3 downloading a third page from one of multiple servers over the network;
- 4 automatically concurrently displaying the third page in one of the first and second panes and one of the first and second pages in the other pane according to the predefined settings;
- 5 downloading a fourth page from one of multiple servers over the network; and
- 6 automatically concurrently displaying the third and fourth pages in the first and second panes according to the predefined settings.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first pane is displayed adjacent and to the left of the second pane, wherein automatically concurrently displaying the third page and one of the first and second pages comprises concurrently displaying the second page in the first pane and the third page in the second pane.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 caching previously downloaded pages in the order in which they were downloaded
3 from the network;
4 receiving a user input command to display a previously displayed page; and
5 automatically concurrently displaying the previously displayed page in the first
6 pane and the first page in the second pane according to the predefined settings in
7 response to the user input command to display the previously displayed page.

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1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the first pane is displayed adjacent and to
2 the left of the second pane.

1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 caching previously downloaded pages in the order in which they were downloaded
3 from the network;
4 receiving a user input command to display a subsequent page cached after the first
5 and second pages were downloaded; and
6 automatically concurrently displaying the subsequent page in the second pane and
7 the second page in the first pane according to predefined settings in response to the user
8 input command to display the previously displayed page.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving user selection of a hypertext link within one of the displayed pages;
3 accessing the page addressed by the hypertext link;
4 automatically concurrently displaying the page currently displayed in the second
5 pane in the first pane and displaying the page addressed by the hypertext link in the
6 second pane if the user selected the hypertext link from the second pane; and
7 automatically concurrently displaying the page currently displayed in the first pane
8 in the first pane and displaying the page addressed by the hypertext link in the second
9 pane if the user selected the hypertext link from the first pane.

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first pane is displayed adjacent and to
2 the left of the second pane.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving user selection of a hypertext link within one of the displayed pages in
3 one of the panes;
4 accessing the page addressed by the hypertext link; and

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5 automatically concurrently displaying the page addressed by the hypertext link in
6 the pane opposite the pane displaying the page from which the hypertext link was selected
7 the page from which the link was selected in its current pane.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the viewer program is capable of
2 displaying the downloaded pages in the first and second panes according to the
3 predefined settings when the pages downloaded from over the network do not include any
4 page commands to cause the display of pages in separate panes within the application
5 window.

1 10. A system for displaying pages in a viewer program on a computer display
2 monitor, wherein the viewer program displays an application window, comprising:
3 means for downloading a first and second pages from one of multiple servers over
4 a network;
5 means for automatically concurrently displaying the first page in a first window
6 pane and the second page in a second window pane in the application window according
7 to predefined settings specifying how pages are to be displayed in the first and second
8 panes;
9 means for downloading a third page from one of multiple servers over the
10 network;
11 means for automatically concurrently displaying the third page in one of the first
12 and second panes and one of the first and second pages in the other pane according to the
13 predefined settings;
14 means for downloading a fourth page from one of multiple servers over the
15 network; and
16 means for automatically concurrently displaying the third and fourth pages in the
17 first and second panes according to the predefined settings.

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1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the first pane is displayed adjacent and to
2 the left of the second pane, wherein the means for automatically concurrently displaying
3 the third page and one of the first and second pages concurrently displays the second page
4 in the first pane and the third page in the second pane.

1 12. The system of claim 10, further comprising:
2 means for caching previously downloaded pages in the order in which they were
3 downloaded from the network;
4 means for receiving a user input command to display a previously displayed page;
5 and
6 means for automatically concurrently displaying the previously displayed page in
7 the first pane and the first page in the second pane according to the predefined settings in
8 response to the user input command to display the previously displayed page.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first pane is displayed adjacent and to
2 the left of the second pane.

1 14. The system of claim 10, further comprising:
2 means for caching previously downloaded pages in the order in which they were
3 downloaded from the network;
4 means for receiving a user input command to display a subsequent page cached
5 after the first and second pages were downloaded; and
6 means for automatically concurrently displaying the subsequent page in the
7 second pane and the second page in the first pane according to predefined settings in
8 response to the user input command to display the previously displayed page.

1 15. The system of claim 10, further comprising:
2 means for receiving user selection of a hypertext link within one of the displayed
3 pages;

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1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the first pane is displayed adjacent and to
2 the left of the second pane.

1 17. The system of claim 10, further comprising:
2 means for receiving user selection of a hypertext link within one of the displayed
3 pages in one of the panes;
4 means for accessing the page addressed by the hypertext link; and
5 means for automatically concurrently displaying the page addressed by the
6 hypertext link in the pane opposite the pane displaying the page from which the hypertext
7 link was selected the page from which the link was selected in its current pane.

1 18. The system of claim 10, wherein the means for displaying the downloaded
2 pages in the first and second panes according to the predefined settings is capable of
3 displaying the pages in the first and second panes when the pages downloaded from over
4 the network do not include any page commands to cause the display of pages in separate
5 panes within the application window.

1 19. An article of manufacture for use in displaying electronic pages in a
2 viewer program application window on a computer display monitor, wherein the article of
3 manufacture comprises at least one computer program that is capable of causing a
4 computer to perform:

5 downloading a first and second pages from one of multiple servers over a
6 network;
7 automatically concurrently displaying the first page in a first window pane and the
8 second page in a second window pane in the application window according to predefined
9 settings specifying how pages are to be displayed in the first and second panes;
10 downloading a third page from one of multiple servers over the network;
11 automatically concurrently displaying the third page in one of the first and second
12 panes and one of the first and second pages in the other pane according to the predefined
13 settings;
14 downloading a fourth page from one of multiple servers over the network; and
15 automatically concurrently displaying the third and fourth pages in the first and
16 second panes according to the predefined settings.

1 20. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the first pane is displayed
2 adjacent and to the left of the second pane, wherein automatically concurrently displaying
3 the third page and one of the first and second pages comprises concurrently displaying the
4 second page in the first pane and the third page in the second pane.

1 21. The article of manufacture of claim 19, further comprising:
2 caching previously downloaded pages in the order in which they were downloaded
3 from the network;
4 receiving a user input command to display a previously displayed page; and
5 automatically concurrently displaying the previously displayed page in the first
6 pane and the first page in the second pane according to the predefined settings in
7 response to the user input command to display the previously displayed page.

1 22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the first pane is displayed
2 adjacent and to the left of the second pane.

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26. The article of manufacture of claim 19, further comprising:
receiving user selection of a hypertext link within one of the displayed pages in
one of the panes;
accessing the page addressed by the hypertext link; and
automatically concurrently displaying the page addressed by the hypertext link in
the pane opposite the pane displaying the page from which the hypertext link was selected
the page from which the link was selected in its current pane.

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- 1 27. The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein the viewer program is
- 2 capable of displaying the downloaded pages in the first and second panes according to the
- 3 predefined settings when the pages downloaded from over the network do not include any
- 4 page commands to cause the display of pages in separate panes within the application
- 5 window.

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